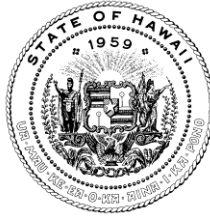


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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LAND  
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS**  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Ref: OCCL:RB

CDUA HA-3880

Acceptance Date: 8/13/21  
180 Day Expiration Date: 2/9/22

Jim Hayes  
Planning Solutions, Inc.  
711 Kapiolani Blvd, Suite 950  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Hayes,

**NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE AND PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL  
DETERMINATION**  
**Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) HA-3880**  
**(Board Permit)**

This acknowledges the receipt and acceptance for the processing of your client's CDUA for the decommissioning of the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory (CSO) located near the summit of Maunakea in Ka'ohē ahupua'a, Hāmākua District, Island of Hawai'i, TMK (3) 4-4-015:009, which is known as the Mauna Kea Science Reserve (MKSR). The CSO is located on 0.75 acres of this TMK. The CSO site is located in the Resource Subzone of the State Land Use Conservation District. The site is accessed via the Mauna Kea Access Road off the Daniel K. Inouye Highway, State Route 200, known locally as Saddle Road.

The CSO is a 10.4-meter (34 ft) diameter telescope that was engaged in astronomical observations from 1986 until September 8, 2015. Existing aboveground structures present on the CSO Site include: the observatory building; outbuilding; water pump shed; and electrical equipment cabinets for generator and transformer. The CSO facilities were primarily built on fill obtained from other locations on Mauna Kea; approximately 2,830 cubic yards of fill were emplaced from other locations on Mauna Kea. The total area of the CSO site is 1.3 acres which includes the sublease area and other minor adjacent areas that were disturbed during the original construction or will be disturbed during the proposed decommissioning of the CSO.

The purpose of the CSO Decommissioning project is to enable Caltech to conclude its use of the site and surrender its sublease while satisfying its obligations, via Sublease H09176 and other agreements, to UH and the State of Hawai'i. Pursuant to the Decommissioning Plan, a subplan of the Mauna Kea Comprehensive Management Plan, the decommissioning of an astronomy facility in the Science Reserve is a multi-step process involving 1) a notice of intent, 2) an environmental

due diligence review, 3) a site deconstruction and removal plan, and 4) a site restoration plan. The Department of Land and Natural Resources will make a determination on whether a Conservation District Use Permit or Environmental Assessment is required based upon the information provided in the notice of intent.

Caltech tendered its Notice of Intent (NOI) to decommission the CSO on November 8, 2015. CSO decommissioning would be conducted as follows:

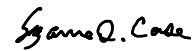
1. Removal of all aboveground and underground CSO components within the CSO Site including, but not limited to, the observatory, outbuilding, foundations, cesspool, utilities, and grounding grid;
2. CSO site restoration to include: (a) removing fill placed on the lava flow during construction; (b) filling cavities where excavation occurred with a portion of the fill placed on the lava flow during construction of the CSO, which is native to Maunakea; and (c) place fine ash and small rocks, screened from the existing fill material, onto the site;
3. Caltech would provide funds for UH to support future decommissioning of infrastructure whose use is shared by other Maunakea astronomical facilities and which cannot be removed until all uses that they serve have been decommissioned; and
4. Caltech would fund site restoration effectiveness monitoring of the former CSO site for a period of three years.

After reviewing the application, the department finds that:

1. The decommissioning plan for CSO appears to be consistent with the Decommissioning Subplan of the Maunakea Comprehensive Management Plan, and will require a Conservation District Use Permit approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources;
2. Pursuant to HAR, §13-5-40 (a) *Public hearings shall be held (4) on all applications determined by the chairperson that the scope of proposed use, or the public interest requires a public hearing on the application;*
3. In conformance with Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), 343, as amended, and HAR, 11-200.1, a Finding of No Significant Impact to the environment (FONSI) is anticipated for the proposed project; and

Upon completion of the application review process, the subject CDUA will be reviewed by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) for consideration. The Board has the final authority to modify, grant, or deny permits. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rachel Beasley at [rachel.e.beasley@hawaii.gov](mailto:rachel.e.beasley@hawaii.gov) or work cell (808) 798-6481.

Sincerely,



SUZANNE D. CASE, Chairperson *MC*  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

cc: Hawaii Board Member  
HDLO/CWRM/SHPD/DOFAW/DOCARE  
OHA/USFWS  
County of Hawaii, Planning Department  
County of Hawaii, Fire Department  
County of Hawaii-Public Works  
Hilo Library  
Kailua-Kona Library  
State Library  
Caltech  
UH Center for Maunakea Stewardship  
Kahu Kū Mauna Council